PROCLAMATION
PARKS AND RECREATION YEAR
2015

WHEREAS, President Theodore Roosevelt helped create North Dakota's first state park when he signed over the deed to Old Fort Abraham Lincoln to the state in 1907; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans have recognized the value and importance of providing public parks for recreation and cultural enrichment since early in the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's residents have a proud tradition of safeguarding the environment; and

WHEREAS, state parks were established to preserve historic and cultural sites of significance, conserve native flora and fauna, and offer the public scenic places for picnics, camping, and other outdoor recreation; and
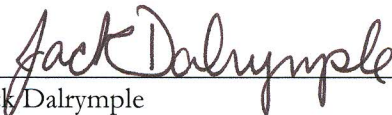
WHEREAS, the North Dakota legislature created the North Dakota Park Service and the State Outdoor Recreation Agency in 1965 to manage parks in our state, eventually leading to the two entities merging into one organization – the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department continues to respond to public demand and broaden opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department staff are trained and committed to providing the public with first-class outdoor recreational experiences; and

WHEREAS, it is important to introduce children to nature, while teaching them the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle and maintaining North Dakota's legacy of environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I recognize the role of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in the preservation of our state history, conservation of nature, and provision of outdoor recreational opportunities, and in honor of its 50th anniversary, I do hereby proclaim 2015 as **PARKS AND RECREATION YEAR** in the state of North Dakota and call upon the people of North Dakota to engage in outdoor recreation in its observance.

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State